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10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In view of the fact that the input/output (I/O) performance or throughput of a disk subsystem (referred to as a "subsystem" hereinafter) is less by approximately three to four orders of magnitude than the I/O throughput of main memories of computers which use semiconductor memory devices as their storage media, attempts have conventionally been made to reduce this difference, namely, to improve the I/O throughput of the subsystem. One prior known approach to improving the subsystem's I/O throughput is to use a system, called a "disk array", for constituting the subsystem from a plurality of magnetic disk devices, such as fixed or "hard" disk drives (HDDs), which are applicable for use in storing data.

<sup>1</sup> BEST AVAILABLE COPY